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August 2, 2004

Malinda Hall, Special Assistant for Environmental Justice  
Cal/EPA – Office of the Secretary  
Cal/EPA Environmental Justice Program  
P O Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Draft Cal/EPA Environmental Justice Strategy

Dear Ms. Hall:


This letter responds to your request for comments on the Draft EJ Strategy. Staff of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District have reviewed the document and offer the following comments:

- The tone and language of the draft document reflect a sincere attempt to identify and respond to EJ issues. The objectives identified (if implemented) can only result in improved environmental quality for the public.
- The fact that the need for accountability to the public is recognized and included as an objective is commendable. Providing a triennial report to the legislature and public will allow performance review of the program to ascertain whether it is working effectively or needs additional revisions.
- In the fourth bullet item on page 3, the phrase used at PRC 71110(b), "...minority populations..." needs to be clarified within this document. For example, on page 6, in Goal No. 3, the term "...communities of color..." is used. Are these terms meant to be interchangeable? How should ethnic minorities, gender-based minorities, and immigrant-based minority populations be referenced?
- The term "community capacity building" is not self-explanatory. The term should be defined to clarify what action is to be implemented (Goal No. 1, pp 6-8).

Air District staff eagerly anticipate the completion of this project, particularly with respect to Goal 4 as it relates to our own agency's efforts. This document will definitely assist us and other agencies in obtaining EJ for our communities.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding these comments, please contact Ms. Thomasina Mayfield, Principal Air Quality Specialist, at (415) 749-4774.

Sincerely,



Kelly Wee  
Director of Compliance and Enforcement Division

KW:TM:JG:al